# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:52
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
NATIONAL FODGRAINS POLICY
SHYAMA SINGH;SUDHA YADAV

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government have decided to formulate a comprehensive National FoodgrainsPolicy and invite bids from private players for setting up of high-tech godowns as part of measures to decentralise food storage;

(b) if so, whether an Expert Committee was constituted to go into the entire gamut of food security and buffer stock;

(c) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) how many of these recommendations have been accepted and implemented; and

(f) the number and details of private parties who have responded to the Government initiative?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION ( SHRI SHANTA KUMAR )

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e) & (f) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c),(d),(e) & (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 52 FOR ANSWE THE LOK SABHA ON 23.02.2001.

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e) & (f) : A High Level Committee (HLC) was set up by the Government ofIndia on 16.11.2000 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, the then Chairman, Commissionfor Agricultural Costs and Prices, to formulate a long term Grain Policy for the country. The terms of reference of the HLC included matters relating to minimum support prices and pricesupport operations, functioning of Public Distribution System, policy regarding buffer stocks, open market intervention and export/import, allocation of foodgrains for rural development programmes and other welfare schemes and FCI related issues. The HLC is yet to submit its report.

The Government of India has already notified, on 4.7.2000, National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains in order to reduce storage and transit losses and to introduce bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains procured by the F C I.The policy envisages harnessing efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign. The identification of locations for establishment of integrated bulk handling and storage facilities under this policy is under finalisation whereafter bids will be invited from the interested parties.